

27 September 1984

The Honorable Louis Stokes
The Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Dear Congressman Stokes:

We should like to express our gratitude for your participation in the 12 September 1984 hearing on HR 5805--legislation that would provide retirement benefits to the former spouses of CIA overseas officers who were excluded from such coverage under the 1982 law, PL 97-269. The proposed legislation, as you know, is very important to these very few American women--women who have long served their country, their families, and their agency. We believe that with support such as yours that passage into law is possible--hopefully during the 1985 Congressional session.

The other important provision of HR 5805--group health insurance--is addressed in HR 2300, which was passed on 24 September 1984. HR 2300 would provide to eligible former spouses of Federal employees the option of enrolling in a group health plan of the employing agency by paying the full premium costs. This Bill--through already legislated procedures--could provide the same option for CIA spouses who are receiving, or who are designated to receive, annuities. The provision will be an important benefit for the CIA spouses divorced in the future, whose property settlements can be written so as to make them eligible. The vital need for affordable group health benefits has been well documented in surveys, letters, and interviews with CIA spouses.

We know that we speak for all CIA spouses, when we say thank you for your help with these legislative efforts that reflect a continuing concern on the part of you and other Committee members for the human side of the overseas intelligence mission.

Sincerely yours,

Barbara Colby

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